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pillar, if the water level beyond the pillar is below the operator's/lessee's adjacent operations, and if no other hazards exist, the operator/lessee shall, on the written order of the authorized officer, mine out and remove all available ore in such boundary pillar, both in the lands covered by the lease and in the adjoining premises, when the authorized officer determines that such ore can be mined without undue hardship to the operator/lessee.

(b) If the mining rights in adjoining premises are privately owned or controlled, an agreement may be made with the owners of such interests for the extraction of the ore in the boundary pillars.

(c) Narrow strips of ore between leased lands and the outcrop on other lands subject to the regulations in this part and small blocks of ore adjacent to leased lands that would otherwise be isolated or lost may be mined under the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

§ 3594.4 Development on leased lands through adjoining mines as part of a mining unit.

An operator/lessee may mine a leased tract from an adjoining underground mine on lands privately owned or controlled or from adjacent leased lands, under the following conditions:

(a) The only connections between the mine on lands privately owned or controlled and the mine on leased lands shall be the main haulageways, the ventilationways and the escapeways. Substantial concrete frames and fire-proof doors that can be closed in an emergency and opened from either side shall be installed in each such connection. Other connections through the boundary pillars shall not be made until both mines are about to be exhausted and abandoned. The authorized officer may waive any of the requirements of this paragraph when it is determined such waiver will not conflict with the regulations in 30 CFR part 57 and will promote maximum recovery of the ore.

(b) Free access for inspection of said connecting mine on lands privately owned or controlled shall be given at any reasonable time to the authorized officer.

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(c) If an operator/lessee is operating on a lease through a mine on lands privately owned or controlled does not maintain the mine access in accordance with the safety regulations, operations on the leased lands may be stopped by order of the authorized officer.

§ 3594.5 Minerals soluble in water; brines; minerals taken in solution.

(a) In mining or prospecting deposits of sodium, potassium or other minerals soluble in water, all wells, shafts, prospecting holes and other openings shall be adequately protected with cement or other suitable materials against the coursing or entrance of water. The operator/lessee shall, when ordered by the authorized officer, back-fill with rock or other suitable material to protect the roof from breakage when there is a danger of the entrance of water.

(b) On leased, license or permit lands containing brines, due precaution shall be exercised to prevent the deposit from becoming diluted or contaminated by the mixture of water or valueless solution.

(c) Where minerals are taken from the earth in solution, such extraction shall not be within 500 feet of the boundary line of lands contained in the approved mine plan without the written permission of the authorized officer.

(d) Any agreement necessary for allocation of brine production shall be made a part of the mine plan.

Subpart 3595—Protection Against Mining Hazards

§ 3595.1 Surface openings.

(a) The operator/lessee shall substantially fill in, fence, protect or close all surface openings, subsidence holes, surface excavations or workings which are a hazard to people or animals. Such protective measures shall be maintained in a secure condition during the term of the lease, license or permit. Before abandonment of operations, all openings, including water discharge points, shall be closed to the satisfaction of the authorized officer.

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(b) Reclamation or protection of surface areas no longer needed for operations will commence without delay. The authorized officer shall designate such areas where restoration or protective measures, or both shall be taken.

(c) Wells utilized for operations involving solution mining or brine extraction shall be abandoned in accordance with the approved mine plan.

§ 3595.2 Abandonment of underground workings.

No underground workings or part thereof shall be permanently abandoned and rendered inaccessible without the advance, written approval of the authorized officer.

Subpart 3596—Waste From Mining or Milling

§ 3596.1 Milling.

The operator/lessee shall conduct milling operations in accordance with the established requirements. The operator/lessee shall use due diligence in the reduction, concentration or separation of mineral substances by mechanical or chemical processes or other means so that the percentage of salts, concentrates, or other mineral substances recovered and waste generated shall be in accordance with the approved practices.

§ 3596.2 Disposal of waste.

The operator/lessee shall dispose of all wastes resulting from the mining, reduction, concentration or separation of mineral substances in accordance with the terms of the lease, approved mining plan, applicable Federal, State and local law and regulations and the directions of the authorized officer.

Subpart 3597—Production Records

§ 3597.1 Books of account.

(a) Operators/lessees shall maintain records which show a correct account of all ore and rock mined, of all ore put through the processing plant, of all mineral products produced and of all ore and mineral products sold. The records shall show all relevant quality analyses of ore mined, processed or

sold and the percentage of the mineral products recovered or lost.

(b) Production records shall be made available for examination by the authorized officer during regular business hours. For the purpose of production verification, the authorized office may request, and the operator/lessee shall submit a copy of any portion of the production records not submitted to the Minerals Management Service as part of the operator's/lessee's production reporting.

§ 3597.2 Audits.

(a) An audit of the operator's/lessee's accounts and books may be made or directed by the Minerals Management Service in accordance with the provisions of Title 30 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) An audit of the operator's/lessee's accounts and production records by the service may be requested by the authorized officer if, during the process of verification of production, it is determined that an irregularity exists between reported production and production calculated by the authorized officer. Such audits shall be requested when the irregularity cannot be resolved between the operator/lessee and the authorized officer.

Subpart 3598—Inspection and Enforcement

§ 3598.1 Inspection of underground and surface conditions; surveying, estimating and study.

Operators/lessees shall provide means at all reasonable hours, either day or night, for the authorized officer to inspect or investigate the underground and surface conditions; to conduct surveys; to estimate the amount of ore or other methods of prospecting, exploration, testing, development, processing and handling; to determine the volumes, types, and composition of wastes generated; to determine the adequacy of measures for minimizing the amount of such wastes and the measures for treatment and disposal of such wastes; to determine reclamation procedures and progress; production records; environmental concerns; and